Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: PEPR, PINS, GE SUBJECT: AUGUST 13 IN EAST BERLIN

- 1. THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BERLIN WALL PASSED IN EAST BERLIN WITH ALMOST NO OFFICIAL FANFARE AND WAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED BY THE POPULACE. SEVERAL EAST GERMANS WITH WHOM EMBASSY OFFICERS SPOKE OVER THE WEEKEND HAD TO BE REMINDED OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DATE WHILE MOST EAST BERLINERS SEEMED MORE CONCERNED WITH THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS THAN WITH DWELLING ON UNPLEASANT POLITICAL MEMORIES.
- 2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF 12/13 AUGUST CONTAINS THE OBLIGATORY EDITORIAL ALWAYS PUBLISHED AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR JUSTIFYING THE WALL. THE RATIONALE FOR THE WALL IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT PROVIDED IN PREVIOUS YEAR'S EDITORIALS. THE WALL WAS A RESPONSE TO AGGRESSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREATS TO THE GDR BY THE FRG, SUPPORTED BY THE US, WHICH WERE NIPPED IN THE BUD. THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 13, 1961, LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FOUR POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN, THE BASIC TREATY BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR, THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND DETENTE. THE WALL THUS SERVES THE INTERESTS OF SECURITY IN EUROPE AND THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLES. BOLEN

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